Foreign exchange spent on technical know-how

2896. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large sum of foreign exchange is spent every year to finance the imports of technical know-how by the Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, what amount was spent on this account during the Sixth Plan period and how much amount has been spent so far during the current plan period; and

(c) what are the broad norms fixed by Government for approving such out-go of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Proposal to open more Kerosene outlets in Rajasthan

2897. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Kerosene outlets are inadequate in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to open more kerosene outlets in the State; and

(c) what steps have been taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir. Oil companies are meeting the present kerosene requirements of Rajasthan adequately through their 220 existing SKO-LDO dealers in that State.

(b) and (c) In addition to the above, upto the Annual Kerosene Marketing Plans 1987-88, the oil industry has planned to set up 20 more SKO-LDO dealerships in Rajasthan to meet its future kerosene requirements.

Withdrawal of subsidy with retrospective effect from certain industries

2898. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have recently withdrawn the subsidy with retrospective effect in respect of certain industries like drilling rigs, automatic bakeries etc.: and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to withdraw subsidy for non-manufacturing activities. In the case of drilling rigs, in particular, it is a footloose activity and therefore, it has been decided to discontinue the subsidy.

HMT's proposal to diversify into low priority food processing industry

2899. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Machine Tools, a central public sector undertaking has proposed to diversify into low priority food processing industry;

(b) whether such diversification will not be in contravention of the Indian Industrial Policy; and

(c) what is the decision taken by Government in the matter and what are the names of other public sector undertakings,